

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EA/ RA: HISOM

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S/ NM: MLAWRENCE (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049473

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE IINFO BANGKOK VIENTIANE CHIANG MAI
HONG KONG FROM RANGOON 16 MAR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0670

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TH HK BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: ROLPH VISIT

REF: (A) BANGKOK 4142; (B) BANGKOK 3786

1. CONCUR WITH EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT POSTING A UK OR HK LIAISON
OFFICER AT BRITISH EMBASSY BANGKOK COULD PROVE USEFUL. HOPEFULLY
IT WOULD ALSO SPARK BRITISH EMBASSY RANGOON TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE
INTEREST IN NARCOTICS SITUATION.

2. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF ROLPH VISIT TO RANGOON, BRITISH EMBASSY
FIRST SECRETARY ADOPTED USUAL LINE THAT IT WOULD BE " DANGEROUS AND
COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE" TO CRITICIZE AND PRESS GUB TOO HARD ON NAR-
COTICS MATTERS. EMBASSY OFFICER AGREED BUT SAID IT WAS QUITE ANOTH-
ER THING TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT WORLD WIDE NATURE OF MENACE,
POINT OUT THAT WE WERE ALL IN IT TOGETHER, AND NOTE THAT PROBLEM
HAD TO BE ATTACKED ON SUPPLY FRONT AS WELL AS FROM DEMAND
VIEWPOINT.
ENCOURAGING STEPS TAKEN BY GUB IN RECENT MONTHS WERE DUE IN PART
TO ADVERSE PUBLICITY BURMA HAD RECEIVED AND TO REPRESENTATION FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES.
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3. SUGGESTION PARA 6 REF A THAT KEY THAI POLICE OFFICIALS MIGHT BE INVITED TO HONG KONG RECALLS THAT WE SUGGESTED TO ROLPH THAT BURMESE OFFICIALS OR NEWSMEN MIGHT ALSO BE INVITED THERE. ROLPH SAID HE WOULD MULL OVER IDEA, NOTING THAT BURMESE CONSUL GENERAL IN HK (AN ARMY LT COLONEL) PROBABLY DID LITTLE OR NO REPORTING TO RANGOON ON NARCOTICS. IN VIEW GUB' S PREOCCUPATIONS WITH PRC, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GUB WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GETTING FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON ANY PRC RELATIONSHIP TO NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN HK.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT SERIES OF MESSAGES ON ROLPH' S SEA VISITS TO LONDON.
MARTIN UQNOTE
ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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